

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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MBA Email Mandate: Don't Worry, Big Brother's Not Watching

by Jesse Bull

A few weeks ago, Mr. Gioia asked his AP English class to take a few minutes to get email accounts through the school. Of course, we took our sweet time and even had to be threatened—jokingly, I think—with demerits. After about two weeks, everyone finally had their addresses. Several of us had been extremely skeptical of the idea from the start. Students have raised questions though. Why not simply use our own home email accounts like Hotmail or AOL? Could this simply be a conspiracy to invade our private lives and give more homework?

For our English class, the system has become more of a forum for healthy discussion and friendly reminders. With everyone signed on through MBA, we are able to utilize the school's resources and to remember easily anyone's address (the first 6 letters of their last name and first initial). Going through the school also creates a sense of camaraderie and allows one to avoid

all the junk mail of AOL accounts and get straight to the good stuff.

Our small scale example has worked fairly well, but some wonder how such a system would fair if implemented for the entire school?

At a recent assembly, Mr. Gioia asked the entire school to get on the ball and get MBA email accounts. I asked some fellow students their thoughts on the issue to determine the sentiments of the student body. Mandatory enforcement could seem like a drastic move to invade our private lives. As Stephen Smith claims, "I think the web of surveillance is descending upon us and will soon smother our souls." In a similar light, Chris Bateman commented with a facetious chuckle, "I can't wait for the day when they have microphones and video cameras in our houses." But others who have nothing to hide are much more positive about the system. Ryan Holt asserted with confidence that the MBA email accounts are "a great

enhancement to Montgomery Bell Academy student life."

Some less informed students are, of course, neutral on the subject. When questioned about the development, Graham Worsham astutely responded, "What email?"

Many students seem to support the idea as long as the system does not provide a venue for teachers to give more work. It should provide an excellent resource by which the teacher can follow up class discussions and create healthy discourse outside scarce class time. Furthermore, a school-wide email system would allow for important, time-saving announcements and student-to-student interaction via the information superhighway.

Whether it be a church ball threat or a tasteful picture of Anna Kournikova, many feel the email definitely has its pluses. But there are as many opinions as there are people, and it could become a divisive issue in the near future.

HFL Bursts onto Scene

by William Sisk

It was a long time ago—almost a year to the day—when my life changed forever. I was playing some good ole' fashion GameBreaker '99 with my friend Ross when we received a telephone call from some friends. These guys were Patrick Warfield and Russell McWhirter. They called us to play a game of football. Now, Ross and I, being the more of a GameBreaker type of football playing squad, decided readily to take on these varsity football studs.

So we played, two on two, touch football. It was a beautiful day, bright and sunny, without a cloud in the sky. The game ended with one of the teams winning, but who won was not important. What was important was the valuable lesson that we learned: Patrick Warfield and Russell McWhirter should not be playing varsity football.

Now, I am not trying to make enemies, but rather friends with that statement. What I meant by it was that those fellas were meant for something much greater, much tougher, and a whole lot less intense—the HFL. So it was called, and so it became.

The four of us, led by Ross Johnson, had the idea to start a football league for the Class of 2002 (Sophomores at the time). We talked and discussed, never really expecting anyone to play, and then told some guys at school. The idea took off. Everyone in our grade talked about it and whom they wanted on their teams. Winter Formal at Harpeth Hall was coming up on the closest Saturday, but no one seemed to even be aware of it. All people could think about was the HFL and this dreamt of football league.

We got some teams together and then had some fun. About ten teams consisting of six or seven players were formed and ready for battle. So we played. A whole league

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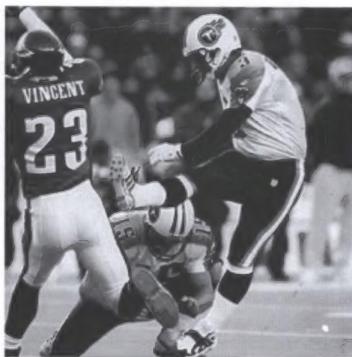
Del Greco Pulls it Out...Finally

by Mike Pass

The Tennessee Titans (11-3) have compiled an impressive, AFC leading record after fourteen weeks of play, but two of their three losses have come in back-to-back weeks against the Ravens and Jaguars, teams that they arguably should have beat. Against the Ravens in week eleven, a missed extra point and missed field goal along with a breakdown in the defense on the Ravens final drive resulted in a one-point loss.

After beating Cleveland at home in week twelve, the Titans traveled to Jacksonville to play the Jaguars in their second meeting of the season. The Titans scored one touchdown in the first quarter, but for the rest of the game had to settle for two field goals. In the red zone, the Titans seemed very predictable, running Eddie George on first and second down and then attempting a pass. This uncreative play calling led the Titans to be forced to settle for two field goals. With three minutes remaining, Al

Del Greco missed a crucial twenty-nine yard field goal attempt that would have put the Titans ahead, and the Titans consequently lost the game.



Titans' kicker Al Del Greco boots a 50-yarder to beat the Eagles.

In week fourteen against the Eagles, the Titans dominated time of possession thanks to good ball movement and excellent defense. Yet again, however, the Titans could not move the ball down around the goal

line and had to settle for five field goals by Al Del Greco, including a fifty-yard game winner. In the opinion of many fans, the play calling in the red zone was predictable, uncreative, and just plain hard-headed. On first and second downs near the goal line, when Eddie George ran the ball almost every time, the Eagles keyed on him, forcing third and long situations. On third down, the Titans usually went from the shotgun formation and couldn't complete the pass.

The Titans have had a great deal of success moving the ball up and down the field in the past few weeks but are getting bogged down when

they get within about ten yards of the goal line. Whether it's the offensive coordinator or the Head Coach Jeff Fisher's poor play calling, they need to mix it up a little more when they get in close. It's not fair to the players or fans to let the game come down to last minute field goal attempts, when the game should be out of reach for the opposing team.

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HFL Bursts on Scene

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was set up with schedules, divisions, rules, and contracts.

Then it basically all fell through. No one could play; teams did not show up, the usual. No one fretted, though. We still played, just not following any schedule. It was more fun that way.

Soon after, two teams emerged that were clearly the HFL dominators. These were the team based on love, harmony, and nature, the Blue team, Ross and William's team, and the hateful Red team of Russ and Warfield. They battled and still do. These battles are what has kept the HFL going.

Now it is a new era, however. It is an era of everyone--no exclusion, no prejudice, no racism, no hate. It is an era of love. The HFL was opened to the whole school by these four gentlemen to raise money for their class and prom.

The rules of the HFL were bent considerably, because in the old days, the HFL did not allow star football athletes. Last year, Jack Turner, Cook Wally, Zach Wall, and a few others were all banned from the league due to their prominent abilities in football.

These slight alterations of the rules have allowed the HFL to bring in the money that the Junior Class needs in order to throw a good prom for the seniors. Everyone who signed up to

play received an HFL Card with lots of discounts, but more importantly, a chance to prove that they are the best in the entire school. MBA gives such honors as the Best Overall Boy in the School, the Best Boy in the Senior Class, yada yada yada, but the HFL is giving away the Randy Award, named after the first African-American athlete in the HFL. The Randy Award is basically the overall MVP of the HFL. This award is based on his stats, hard work, dedication, and love. Being the recipient of the Randy Award means that you are the best, you are the greatest, and you are the most talented face on the MBA campus.

Also, the HFL, due to its success, is looking to have an HFL all-star game. This all-star game will consist of at least one player from each grade and just the overall best HFL athletes.

So play hard, play strong, and play to survive, because the team who wins overall will receive free smoothies, free movie passes, free bowling games, and basically any other around-five-dollar prizes we can gather. The champions will also win the most important prize, the HFL Bowl Trophy, a timeless piece of artwork, which will be seen on a later date.

Debate Keeps Doin' It

by Paul Johnson

The Montgomery Bell Academy debate team has continued its recent battles and competitions of late and has been quite successful.

On its most recent jaunt up to the University of Kentucky several noteworthy accomplishments were carried out. The Novice policy unit of John Patten and Nick "the Quick" Hallahan competed in novice policy and finished with a strong 3-2 record in a competitive Novice field. Hallahan and Patten also served to dutifully amuse the Varsity squad with their pronunciation of the Kentucky town "Versailles" (pronounced Versy). These novices proceeded to pronounce it as Versales.

At any rate, led by our powerful three head coaching beasts of Mr. Alan Coverstone, Mr. Billy Tate, and Mr. Bill Wilson, we stormed into battle to the tune of "Ride of the Valkyries." Ok, so we didn't actually listen to "Ride of the Valkyries," but it

would have been really cool if we did. Once the smoke cleared several notable achievements had been attained. Both teams collected preliminary records of 5-1.

The unit of Trey Tally and Paul "Arachnopocentrism" Pope were second seed, and the unit of Paul Johnson and Ian McDaniel were the fourth seed.

The unit of McDaniel (I refuse to call him by his self-appointed nickname "The Show") and Johnson advanced to the quarterfinals before losing to a team from Stratford Academy in Georgia that was on fire.

The unit of Pope and Tally made it to finals before losing on a 2-1 decision to the aforementioned Stratford team. Also, Trey Tally was 11th speaker at the tournament, and Paul Johnson was 5th.

Next on the docket is a tournament out in sunny California;

News Briefs

Basketball Season Begins With Strong Senior Performances

The MBA Varsity Basketball team opened the 2000-01 season in defense of their state championship with an easy win over Goodpasture. The team then took a trip to Gatlinburg to play Pitman and Cosby. Without Moses Osemwegie, Dominique Morris, and Ingle Martin, the team lost both games though Evan Abrahams scored a career high 29 points against Pitman.

The team played their first division game against USN and handily defeated the Tigers. The team then played MLK, but lost a close one to the 2000 AA semifinalists.

However, the big Red bounced back against Hillsboro with Carter Henderson leading the team with 21 points. The team at 3-3, travels to Kentucky this weekend to play Scott and Marion Counties.

Congratulations Juniors on PSAT Results!

The results of the year 2000 PSAT tests arrived a little over a week ago and they were very pleasing.

As many of you may know, juniors taking the PSAT can qualify for National Merit Recognition with a very high score. Students in the ninety-eighth and ninety-ninth percentiles in the country are often either National Merit semi-finalists, or at least commended.

This year, the Class of 2002 had 44% of its members reach these marks. The number of students in this class achieving these scores was an all-time high. The *Bell Ringer* would like to congratulate these juniors.

the debate team left on Saturday and comes back on Wednesday. Scott Lewis, Paul Johnson, Trey Tally, and Paul Pope will all be attending this tournament at the University of the Redlands in a place far more warm than anywhere any of you will be during

Government Club and Public Debates Heating Up

After three successful meetings, MBA's new Government Club is looking forward to future meetings featuring guest speakers and student debates. The Government Club will be sponsoring and organizing this year's second public debate, scheduled to take place Monday during 5th period in the Ingram Lecture Hall.

Philosophy Club A Success in First Meetings

The most prominent society in the MBA community has proved to be a major success in the first months of school. The student body has continually demanded even more meetings to satiate their desire for intellectual food. The last convergence of great minds was aided by the one and only Dr. Compton of Vanderbilt University. His wisdom managed to enhance the already incredible dialogue of ideas, and he will surely be present at the more frequent meetings next semester. As the year progresses, the society looks forward to even greater turnout and even hotter salsa.

Long-Awaited Bell Breaker Coming in January

MBA's only satirical newspaper and most prominent and revered publication, the *Bell Breaker*, is set to come out the week of or the week after exams.

Don't get your panties in a wad!

that period.

We look forward to a productive and successful trip and would like to thank the administration for their continued support of our travel.

News

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Ping Pong Tourney A Big Success

by Steven Syverud

On November 18, competitive ping pong returned to MBA after a one year hiatus, as 62 MBA students, faculty, and alumni converged on the gym for MBA Ping Pong tournament. A round-robin first round-a format twist which allowed the pongers to play more



Finalist Ted Tywang follows through after a lethal southpaw forehand.

for their money- the field was whittled down to 24. As the tournament continued in single elimination form, there were a few surprises. Dr. Neergaard, the only MBA teacher to advance out of the first round - showed impressive skill as he easily defeated the students in his first round pool. Tipton Horn, who claimed that he would advance far in the tournament, was knocked off early in single elimination by seventh grader Nick Anand. But as the tournament proceeded to the final round, David Syverud and Teddy Tywang, the two odds on favorites to win the tournament, managed to fend



David Syverud, the eventual champion, takes on Dr. Neergaard above in a very heated competition.

unknown, Teddy agreed to serve according to these rules. This decision hurt Teddy, as he was able with these restrictions, to play his serve into only

Big Red Music Stars Shine in Nashville and Beyond

by Dr. David Cassel

On November 3, cellist Hamilton Berry competed in the Curb Records Concerto Competition. Hamilton was winner in the string division, and placed third over all, taking home the \$250 prize.

On November 4, violinist Arthur Kim competed in the Music Teachers National Association Annual Competition. He won first place in the state, and will go on to play in the Southeast Division in late January, 2001. Last year, cellist Michael DeBruyn entered the same competition, won the state and regional first prizes, and went on to compete on the national level.

On November 18, bass-baritone Alec Berryman successfully auditioned for the Middle Tennessee Regional Chorus. Alec is also in the running for the Tennessee All-State Chorus.

These are but four examples of the caliber of student musicians

here at MBA. Often their abilities go unrecognized only because their successes occur off-campus, away from the eyes of the MBA student body. For example, cellists Michael DeBruyn and Hamilton Berry won the Nashville Youth Symphony Concerto auditions last year, leading to solo performances with the Youth Symphony.

In another arena, eight of our MBA chorus men were selected to sing in the Honor Choir of the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools this October.

We ought to stop for a moment and think how these young men develop such excellence in music. There is nothing magical about an accomplished musician. He simply decides to sacrifice his time and energy (and other opportunities that compete for that time and energy) in order to perfect his musical skill. Many of MBA's singers and instrumentalists, for example, study each week with a private music coach, one on one. Between

lessons they are expected to practice and to study their music five to ten or more hours each week. Most musicians are also involved with a sport—music is, after all, an intensely physical activity requiring coordination of fine- and gross-motor skills.

To those of us in the audience, watching these young men perform, it all seems incredibly easy. It is much the same as watching a great athlete—the greater he is, the easier he makes it look. But most of us "non-Olympic" athletes know better, because we may have tried some of his moves ourselves. So it is with our enormously gifted musicians: they make it look easy, but the road of discipline and determination to get them to that point has been anything but easy. Take time to thank your student colleagues whose labors may have missed your attention. Better yet, take time to listen to them. They make beautiful music, and if you stop to listen to it you will be delighted, and ennobled, and maybe even changed.

off all upset scares. Before they faced off in this pivotal match, David asked Teddy if he would be willing to abide by the strict USTTA (United States Table Tennis Association) rules. The rules dictate that a before serving one must hold the ping pong ball stationary with a flat and open palm, then throw the ball at least six inches in the air. The ball must stay parallel to or go away from the table while in mid air. For reasons

one region of the table. David was able to sit on Teddy's serve, and after an uninspired performance, Teddy was defeated in straight sets, and David was crowned champion. The best represented family at the tournament, however turned out to be not the Syveruds, but the O'Connells. Mrs. O'Connell took a break from French to take a part in the festivities, as did her husband Tim "The Wall" O'Connell, and their son Freddie.

The tournament, which raised money for the Junior Class to fund prom, was organized by Tipton Horn and Steven Syverud, with much help and advice from Mr. Gaither. Also helping to make the tournament run smoothly was the Nashville Table Tennis Club. The club, which meets Tuesday and Thursday nights on the indoor tennis courts at Centennial Sportsplex, provided 10 excellent tables and a plethora of barriers, which kept people from having to chase ping pong balls all over the gym and gave the tournament a

professional feel. After observing the high quality of ping pong that was being played in the tournament, officers from NTTC handed out free passes to play at their club to anyone who reached the second round of the tournament. This tournament will not



A bird's eye view of the tournament, in which 62 ping pong athletes participated.

be the last time ping pong will be seen at MBA. A Ping Pong Club is in the process of being founded. Interested ping pong players are also considering putting on another tournament this year, possibly taking place on a Friday soon after school lets out rather than Saturday morning as this tournament did. Hopefully, we can ride the wave of ping pong excitement created by this success tournament to bigger and better things.

Service Club Goes “Treeing” For Releaf Nashville

by Johnathan Mirian

It was cold--so cold that a penguin grooving to a hip-hop, turn around beat during Thanksgiving couldn't let loose a rumbling "YAWP!" But we liked it. Ryan Mirian, Jesse Bull, Drew Conrad, and I, along with the fearless president of the Service Club, Sumeet Vaikunth, weathered the frigid climate of Nashville in the fall on November 18 in search of the elusive tree-planting project known as Releaf Nashville.

We met at MBA headquarters at a predawn 6:30 a.m. Preparing for our trek, we set out an ambitious objective: plant ten trees. Also, we made sure that we had the proper equipment for the strenuous undertaking: a scratched up Rage Against the Machine CD and a Hawaiian Tikki god for moments of spiritual weakness.

Before we left the fatherly confines of MBA, Headmaster Gioia, like an apparition from the breakfast

gods, magically appeared from the Ball Building and said, "Let's go get some doughnuts for you guys." To say the least, the fledgling adventurers and I were grateful for Mr. Gioia's largesse, and the hyper-sugar inserted into every Krispy Kreme glazed doughnut invigorated our wavering minds still yearning for the warm pillows we left back home.

We cruised down West End Avenue on our way to East Nashville. The sound system was jumping...in the car next to us, and the beat got our feet crazy for some mad diggin'! As we crossed the Cumberland River, which had a mean stench exuding from its dark watery depths, Sumeet turned to me and said, "Ahh, yeah...It's on, Woop, Woop!"

When the planting actually took place, the "Super" Mirian brothers were smackin' everyone around, including Drew "the tree machine" Conrad. However, the project turned a

bit ugly when Jesse and I had a scuffle over a much-sought-after shovel. Consequently, I managed to shamelessly expectorate on my good friend. Sumeet broke the fray up by saying, "Chill!" in a very presidential tone.

But Jesse and I hadn't had enough, so we threw down the gauntlet again and rumbled *West Side Story*-style as everyone snapped their fingers and sang musical numbers. The trees didn't mind. With the seniors roughing it up, Nathan Eldridge and Clark Rollins kept the scene real by being rather meek and berry, taking after the holly trees they had been planting all day long.

With our tenth tree purged of

all sin and left to its mulched, well-watered grave, we called it a successful day and headed on over to San Antonio Taco Company looking very treeish. My brother Ryan was caked with mud and Conrad somehow managed to lose his shoes and socks over the course of the day... trees can be rough to handle under certain conditions.

Arthur Kim, the only Freshman participant, loaded up on tacos and commented that the Service Club tree-planting experience "was intense, yet poetically beautiful." I couldn't sum it up better.

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THE VANGUARD
issue

JANUARY 2001

*Beware of
Dog!!*

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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and can be given to a member of the editorial staff, or sent to bringer@montgomerybell.com. These letters must be signed, but names will be withheld on request. Letters will be edited for length if necessary.

The staff of **The Bell Ringer** prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. EverReady Printing in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

Sports

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Excitement Has Begun

by John Eason

College basketball is back and this year will not be any different than the previous years. There are no truly dominant teams this year and it looks like the tournament in March will once again be complete mayhem. The teams at the top such as Duke, Temple, and Michigan State have not come out and proven anything yet. Duke struggled until the end against the No. 25 ranked Temple Owls in the preseason NIT, Arizona stumbled against the heavy underdog Purdue, and Michigan State struggled against the Harlem Globetrotters at the beginning of the season!

However, there are many skilled and well-coached teams out there in the NCAA this year. The Duke Blue Devils are back once again with an arsenal of weapons led under the great coaching of Mike Krzyzewski. Shane Battier, one of the top players in the nation, looks to provide his senior leadership this year to take the Devils all the way after many disappointing finishes in the past couple years.

Michigan State, the defending champ, comes back this year with hopes of a repeat even though they lost two outstanding players in Mateen Cleaves and Morris Peterson to the NBA this year. Look for players such as the point guard, Charlie Bell, and swingman, Jason Richardson, to lead Tom Izzo's Spartans another title.

Arizona, many people's choice to win it all this year, looks to have all the weapons to make a run for the Final Four. The tandem of Jason Gardener and Gilbert Arenas proved to be amazing last year and look to get even better this year. Then one looks at the strength of Michael Wright at power forward and of course the intimidating shot blocker Loren Woods. Woods is the key factor in this team because if he is healthy they are obviously one of the best teams in the nation. However, last year their loss to Wisconsin in the NCAA tournament without Woods proved that they are a much weaker team without him. Woods was out this year against a weak Purdue team and once again Arizona was not able to win. The big question that looms for the Wildcats is whether or not Loren Woods can stay healthy. Also, look for teams this year such as Stanford, Illinois, Seton Hall, and Notre Dame to make a run in this year's Big Dance.

There will be many exciting

Bowling Team Looking Strong

by Thompson Paine

As you look around, you are surrounded by some of the most stellar athletes the Greater Nashville area has to offer. The scent of cigarettes and fried foods, mixed with a hint of beer and body odor, penetrates your nostrils. You hear a slight grunt as the 14 pound sphere knocks on the hard wood floor. The ball rolls down the lane like a steaming locomotive and hits the triangle of wooden pins. Your heart jumps with excitement...it must be bowling season!

The MBA bowling team, currently in the early rounds of playoffs, closed out the regular season 14-2, clinching second place in the division, which includes Father Ryan, Hume-Fogg, Martin Luther King, Tennessee Preparatory, Franklin Road Academy, and Harpeth Hall.

The squad is lead by a cast of strong seniors including Miller

Harris, John Humbracht, Thompson Paine, Bill Alley, Patrick Gibbs, Jeff Young, and Scott Sagen. Juniors Geoff Scruggs, Hunter Oldacre, Brett Knoll, and sophomores Greg Scruggs, and Brian Christie complement this solid



(Left to right) Jeff Young, Miller Harris, Thompson Paine, Bill Alley, John Humbracht, Scott Sagen, and Patrick Gibbs (not pictured) are the senior leaders of this year's squad.

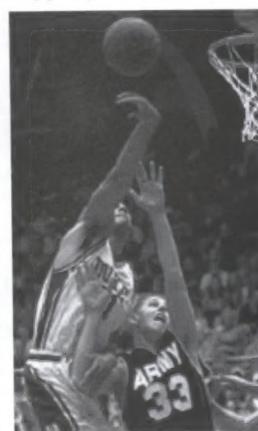
group of athletes.

The only two losses of the year for the Big Red came against Father Ryan, one of which was decided by a minute 21 pins. The general feeling on the team is that the first place Irish are very beatable.

On Monday, the district playoffs began at Melrose Lanes. With Father Ryan getting a first round bye, competition paired off the other six teams with the top two point-getters going on to the championship. MBA squared off against the Honey Bears of Harpeth Hall for the third time of the season. The first two matches were won 26-1, with Brett Knoll, and Jeff Young embarrassing the team as they each lost one game. Again though, one of our bowlers blew the shut-out, as we beat our lady competitors 26-1 for a third time.

Commander Carr, the team's fearless leader, wanted the shut-out, but seemed pleased with the victory.

The Bowlers of the Big Red faced Father Ryan and FRA in the district finals on Thursday. Ask around or check the announcements for the results.



Shane Battier skies over Army for a rebound.

players to watch in all the conferences and here are just a few. In the Big 10, Brian Cook of Illinois is a skilled 6'10" forward who can not only post up, but also hit the jumper and handle the ball outside. In the Big East, the obvious choice is Troy Murphy of Notre Dame, a center who loves to shoot from the outside and averaged 22.7 points per game last year. He also grabbed an average of 10.3 rebounds per game. In the Big 12, look for Jamaal Tinsley of Iowa State to have an explosive year. He is regarded as the best point guard in the nation and can do whatever he wants to against defenses. He has an uncanny ability to find his teammates, but also scores when its needed. In the SEC, Arkansas' Joe Johnson is another

tall (6'8") forward who is very versatile, and he goes well with the up and down pressure and fast breaks that Nolan Richardson loves to run. Last year he was only able to play for half the year because of poor grades, but this year Nolan Richardson is happy to know that he will have him for the whole season. In the ACC, Maryland's Terrence Morris is the player to watch because he can do it all. He can shoot the three, take the defender off the dribble, play in the post, and grab 9 rebounds a game. He averaged 15.8 points last year while only taking

12 shots a game, showing his unselfishness which will allow the Terrapins to go far this year. Loren Woods of Arizona seems to be the

dominating force in the PAC-10 this season. He is the type of player who changes games for Arizona with his scoring and his shot blocking. He can not only power the defender inside but also shoot the 15-footer. He will make or break their title hopes.

I feel that Duke will make it back to the Final Four with the leadership of Battier combined with the power of Boozer and the speed of Williams. Arizona, only because I feel that Loren Woods can stay fairly healthy throughout the season, will climb into the Final Four with their amazing talent and coaching. Illinois, led by my pick for Big 10 player of the year, should also go to the Final Four along with Kansas and their powerful and athletic frontcourt of Kenny Gregory, Nick Collison, and Eric Chenowith. Duke will bring back the old glory days of 92 and 93 with a national championship in the year 2001. As far as the local teams go, Tennessee looks to be impressive if Tony Harris can actually pass the ball this year and quit being a whiner. Vandy, meanwhile, after coming off wins against such powerhouses as St. Josephs and Western Carolina, will probably be horrible again, ending up near the bottom of the SEC.

Big Red Ballers Make Presence Felt in Church Ball

by Zac Hood

America's team is back. Those Varsity Blue Durasheen jerseys bring excitement to young and old. A certain *je ne sais quoi* fills the air. Many people have contributed to the explanations of the BUMC (Belmont United Methodist Church) hype. The most obvious reason is the collection of individuals making up the dynasty. This immaculate collection has sweated on the same floor for five years. The experience of these seniors flows like wine. The elite eight have more chemistry than Dr. Neergaard is aware of.

Like all powerhouses, the team starts with the big men. The twin towers or "J-Masters" compose the front court. Jeff Young, better known as the "Block Masta", and Jeff Scobey have been working in the paint since birth. The combination of Scobey's power moves and Young's "Dream Shake Fade-Away" is the essence of the team.

While the big men up front provide most of the talent, the team must be balanced by great guards. Four play-makers have stepped into the spotlight throughout the years to fulfill that role. What makes this foursome so dangerous is the unpredictable heroes that step up each week. One week the scoring and leadership could stem from Patrick Gibbs (known as "Gibbles") or Thompson Paine (known across the nation as "White Lightning") and their sharp shooting. Gibbles has yet to miss a three-point attempt since the beginning of his freshman season, a record which will be placed amongst Cal Ripken's consecutive game streak and Ted Williams' .400 season. Paine seems to have a knack for the exact moment to light on fire in which the opposing team can do nothing but watch. The other two guards are known more as slashers used for penetration. Zac Hood has been accused of watching too much game tape on the great Ohio State guard Scoonie Penn. His obsession has resulted in cat-like reflexes and movements along with a suffocating, hardcore defense. Sagen has simply lit it up since the founding of the YMCA. All of his confidence and stutter steps have evolved from his youth. Sagen could be the key to winning the championship this season. While Gibbles' dedication, Paine's sharp shooting, and Young's intelligent recklessness will be on display, the ones who will steal the show are the remaining two players, the court jesters.

Going into his third season, Adam Brooks has done nothing but put

on an absolute show for all to see. His sense of basketball history flows from his mouth just like the ball from his finger tips. His role as "athlete" could push this team over into the win column on multiple occasions. Cal Alexander, a church ball virgin, has waited for this moment in the sun and will take full advantage of it.

Two other teams have put them in the position to be called part of the elite. These teams also have remarkable talent with an experience factor you simply cannot teach. These two have the horses to make it all the way. The names are Westminster Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterians are indeed making a strong effort.

First Presbyterian has had a history of producing quality teams. Past alums include David Scobey, Halsey Fischer, and the greatest spitter in the world, Bryan Fisher. This year the team will show more class than those of years past. The backcourt will be loaded with talent as always. Rick Gotwald, Billy Pritchett, and William Floyd are a mean threesome. If they can play like they will have partied the night before, the sky is the limit. A new addition to the backcourt is a transfer from St. George's, Reid Murphy. He may not be the prettiest boy in the lineup, but he can take it to the whole better than most. He will call upon his two other transfers from St. George's to help him, William and Leighton Liles. While they insist on playing defense against smaller, quicker guards, they can change a ball game by their presence. A certain football and/or lacrosse demeanor and style of play is brought onto the basketball court by these gentleman. Last and certainly not least for FPC is Ryan Holt. His work ethic on and off the floor goes unmatched in the league. He will be a great addition to FPC as he transfers from the over talented Forrest Hills Methodist. There may be only one frontcourt in the league that can go against FPC, and that is Westminster.

Some question whether leaders are made or born. Bill Alley was born. His confidence and hard-nose play has rubbed off on his teammates for the past five years. His desire to win and compete places him at the top. He

Harris, and "Easy" Ed Buchanan. This team could pose serious matchup problems to the smaller teams in the league which will have to utilize their quickness. Billips can stroke the ball from anywhere as well as powering it inside. Tompkins, Worsham, and Harris are big bodies with little offensive creativity limiting their production. Worsham looks great on paper yet seems to come up short in the bigger contests. He will no doubt prove the critics wrong in a breakout year. Ed "Fatshaft" Buchanan also proves to be a tiger inside of a bunny rabbit just waiting for his opportunity. Given the chance, Fatshaft could bring terror to his opponents. Westminster is prime for a great season.

An exciting season, one full of hope for all, is underway. The talent and effort of these athletes has all gone into maintaining a quality product for the fans. The players compete so that the fans can simply enjoy themselves at the Westminster Entertainment Center.

Ask anyone for a schedule of the upcoming games. They will be full of excitement. They will be full of raw emotion. They will be Church Ball.



Last year's regular season champs and favorite for this year's title Belmont Methodist: (from left to right, front row then back) Scott Sagen, Thompson Paine, Patrick Gibbs, Jeff Scobey, Ryan Robinson(Hillsboro), Adam Brooks, and Eric (USN). Zac Hood and Cal Alexander are not pictured.

could be an All-West End by the end of the year. Joining him will be other quality players such as Tee Tompkins, BJ Billips, Graham Worsham, Charlie



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Sports

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MBA Captures Third Consecutive State Title!

by Ryan Holt

After an exciting season with many well-fought, close games, Montgomery Bell Academy's 101st football squad finished with a record of 12-0, the Division II-AA Super Seven championship, and a *USA-Today* national ranking of 17th and rising.

The season concluded on Saturday, November 18th, in a Clinic Bowl bout with our rival, the Brentwood Academy Eagles, at Vanderbilt's Dudley Stadium. With a large crowd on hand for both sides, the Big Red pulled out a tight, defensive battle to come out on top 8-7 and to finish off an undefeated season. Competing against one of the state's best teams in freezing temperatures that the Big Red were not fully used to, the defense showed tremendous poise to hold on while the offense scrapped together enough big plays to win.

This victory, the last of wins in three straight huge games for the Big Red, gave the Clinic Bowl trophy to MBA along with allowing the recognition of many individual players. As the team lingered on Vanderbilt field and the lights went out Saturday night, and while the captains presented the trophy to the proudest school in assembly the following Monday, every person who had put in hours of commitment during the summer and fall realized the pay off for their hard work.

Three weeks before, the players, coaches, and cheerleaders stood heroically smiling for pictures on Vanderbilt's field after the big game, the squad knew they had work to do in order to ever realize that moment.

After a restful bye-week including fall break, the Big Red took the field at home to face long-time rival Father Ryan. Ryan, even though they had a surprisingly unsuccessful season, had enough talent and motivation to possibly topple MBA in the last game of the regular season. Since the Irish did not have enough wins to enter post-season play, they knew their last game of the season would be at Tommy Owen Stadium, and they had nothing to lose. The history of the rivalry that goes back many years

would also provide motivation for the Irish and level the playing field for the two teams. After a weak first half, the Big Red regrouped and pulled away to win the game handily, 38-17. A solid kicking game, along with sensational play by receiver Nathan Sensing, quarterback Ingle Martin, and do-everything back Dominique Morris, who also contributed to a strong defensive

linebacker/fullback Moses Osemwiegie, propelled the squad into the Clinic Bowl the following Saturday evening. With three first-half touchdowns by Osemwiegie, Martin, and B.J. Billips, the offense's early success allowed the solid defensive squad to control the second half for its second shut-out of the season.

The Big Red then set their sights to the ultimate goal, the Clinic Bowl against Brentwood Academy, whom they had shut out earlier in the season. Vanderbilt Stadium set the stage for the biggest game of the year, and by pre-game at 4:00 it was already colder outside than it had been for any game this year.

Nevertheless, thousands of fans turned out for both sides to watch the two rivals compete for the state title.

After the Eagles drove down the field for a touchdown in their first

just as determined, and MBA was forced to go into the locker room down 7-0 at the half.

After a motivational halftime, the squad took the field again, determined to prevent the Eagles from putting a huge blemish on the so-far undefeated season. During the third quarter, the Big Red put their first points on the board when junior linebacker Zach Wall sacked BA quarterback Jesse Kellogg in the end zone for a safety.

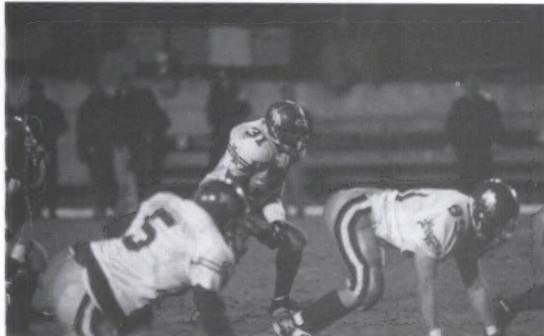
Rejuvenated by the outstanding play of the defense, the offensive squad was able to put together one good drive, in which Martin threw an off-balance pass to Dominique Morris for a 21-yard touchdown that put the Big Red up 8-7. The game was far from over, however, as the Eagles got the ball back with less than two minutes left. MBA's championship hopes were put on the shoulders of the defensive squad, as they forced the Eagles to kick a 50-yard field goal for the win that missed just wide.

Everyone, from the players and coaches to the cheerleaders and fans, enjoyed the exciting victory that Saturday night. For many, it was the culmination of many hours of hard work - not only on the field, but also years

spent in the weight-room and countless hours of watching videos. For the senior players and cheerleaders, that game was a perfect conclusion to many high school football careers.

The team would like to thank all of the coaches for putting in so much time and effort into making this season what it was. All the players enjoyed working with and learning from what proved to be one of the best coaching staffs in the state of Tennessee. All the parents and relatives of the players also deserve thanks for their contributions, as well as all the MBA faculty and staff that helped set up the season and the trip down to Florida to play Bolles.

Final thanks go to the cheerleaders and the fans, who braved the cold and made it out to all the games to provide noticeable verbal support. All these people contributed countless amounts to the team with their own dedication. With their help the 101st MBA football team won its third straight STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.



Defensive Mr. Football, Moses Osemwiegie, scopes out BA's offense.

showing in the second half at strong safety, won the duel. Although the game showed both players and coaches that the team still had room to improve before the playoffs, everyone was excited to defeat our biggest rival at home and conclude the regular season 10-0.

Since solid play in Division II-AA games during the season had earned the Big Red a first round playoff bye, the team had two weeks to prepare for the next game, which was to be against the Baylor Red Raiders. During these two weeks the squad worked hard every day in order to have the best chance to win in the playoffs.

The Raiders came to Tommy Owen stadium on the night of November 10th, in a match-up where the winner got a title shot in the next week's Clinic Bowl, and the loser went home. After an exciting pep-rally in the afternoon, the entire student body poured into the stands to watch the Big Red's last home game on a fairly cold evening. The squad knew that the Raiders would put up more of a fight than the Irish, since Baylor led for three-quarters against the Big Red on their own turf during week three of the season. MBA came out strong, however, and never looked back en route to a 21-0 victory. The game, highlighted by the outstanding all around play of



Dominique Morris, who had an offer to play football at Vanderbilt, loosens up before the big game.

possession, the Big Red defense was forced to regroup, and the offense had increased pressure on them to put the ball in the end zone. Unfortunately for the Big Red, the Eagle's defense was

Wrestling Off To An "Explosive" Start

by Will Tate

Your haggard friends are gazing longingly at the all-you-care-to-eat lunch buffet, and you see them emerging exhausted and drenched with sweat from the swampy basement of the Curry Gym. Yup, its wrestling season, and the Big Red team is off to an explosive start.

We are blessed this year with a number of returning seniors including our Captain, three time state champion, two time national runner-up, and National Champion Phillip Simpson. Our other captains are Logan Hughes who placed third in State last year and Matthew McIntosh who placed second. Will Tate, Andrew Coulton, Hunter Huston and Nathan Burkhalter are also returning seniors.

The team is now 12 and 1 after defeating Clarksville Northeast, Hillwood, Whites Creek, David Lipscomb, Springfield, Stratford,

Montgomery Central, Harrison (Ohio), Princeton (Ohio), and Campbell County (K Y).

Unfortunately our one loss has been to our purple Irish rival, Father Ryan. It's OK, however, because we are going to see them again, and again, and again.

Our Head Coach is Mr. Frank Simpson, father of Phillip (135 lb. weight class), Patrick (119) and William (103) (in case you didn't already know). Our assistant coaches are Mr. Jenkins, Mr. McBride, and Mr. Spiegel. McBride



Simpson brothers Patrick(left) and Phillip are both favored to win state championships this year.

and Mr. Jenkins just finished their season with the microbes who got 2nd

in the H.V.A.C. handily defeating thier Ensworth rivals. We are happy to add to our coaching staff Michael Beck, who is currently studying at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Ms. Ivy Ashworth and Captain Ashleigh Foster lead the cheerleaders this season, who are very excited about this upcoming year. (If you have absolutely no interest in wrestling, you can always come and watch them.)

On December 15th and 16th we are taking a trip to the

McCallie School in Chattanooga, to take on ten teams from Tennessee, two from Florida, two from Ohio, and a few from Alabama. Needless to say the tournament will be very competitive. Since we have already proved ourself on an out-of-state level, we believe that we will succeed.

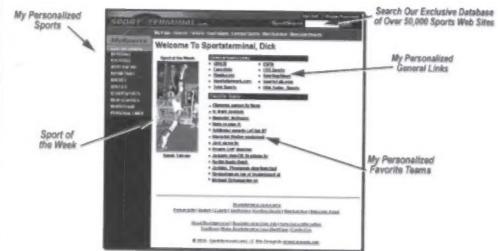
We would really appreciate as much fan support as possible, and though there are not many matches at MBA, there are two huge tournaments across town at Father Ryan Elementary, I mean, High School. Do remember that the wrestling season runs until mid-February so there will be plenty of chances to come see a match. We would also appreciate if some students would take the idea of painting their chests from the wrestlers who did it for football games, and come to wrestling matches painted. We believe that this year we might bring home the first ever Wrestling State Champion trophy to MBA.

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Entertainment

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Golden Boy Gives Audiences A Look at Another Era

by Thompson Paine

November 30 through December 3, the MBA Theater Company put on Clifford Odets' *Golden Boy*. The play, directed by Dr. Cal Fuller, is a modern American tragedy, dealing with the deterioration of the American Dream, as people come to worship fame and fortune above all else.

The play takes place in New York City from 1935-1937. Odets works in an abundance of lingo from the time, which adds much color and authenticity to the script.

The characters Golden Boy



John Voigt, as Joe Bonaparte, speaks with John Humbracht playing his father.

are fabulous fits for the story-line and setting. Joe Bonaparte, the hopeful violinist turned prideful boxer, was played by John Voigt, who had yet

another magnificent performance in a lead role. The female lead of Lorna Moon was played by Catherine Nading of Hillwood High School and Maggie Moss of St. Cecilia. They were also very good.

Aaron Manier played Roxy Gottlieb, a greedy and crude boxing manager, with the animation and flare we have come to expect from this senior theater

veteran. Tucker Robinson played the character of Tom Moody, Roxy's associate, who competes with Joe for the love of Lorna Moon.

Other substantial parts done

well were those of Tommy McGinn as Tokio, the trainer, Jessica Turk of Harpeth Hall as Anna, Joe's sister, and Jason Sanders as her husband, Siggi.

The elderly mannerisms and Italian accent of John Humbracht in the character of Joe's father was wonderful and the gangster antics of William Kaminski as Eddie Fuceli stole the show in some scenes.

Dr. Fuller was very, very pleased with the production and all the people involved. "I have been blessed with a gifted and cooperative cast and crew," he

said in the program. "I thank them from the bottom of my heart for making this longtime dream of mine a reality. They have far exceeded my expectations. I appreciate their

sacrifices (and those of their parents) to make this show possible.

In MBA's last production, *Damn Yankees*, Dr. Fuller received several complaints about the crude



Eddie Fuceli, played by William Kaminski (left) entertains all as he threatens the character of Roxy Gottlieb, played by Aaron Manier.

language. Even though in *Golden Boy*, there were more cuss words than in *Damn Yankees*, there were no objections. The play was a great success and any one who was unable to see it, missed out on something worth while.

Top Ten Pick-up Lines

Favorites of Seniors and Faculty

10. Hey baby, wanna wrastle?

-Philip Simpson

9. If you turn me down, you're antimani!

-Leighton Liles

8. If I follow you home will you keep me?

-Ben Derry

7. Errrr!

-Slayer

6. I may not be the best looking guy here, but I'm the only one talking to you.

-Logan Hughes

5. I can't find my puppy, can you help me find him? I think he went into this cheap motel room.

-Clifton Hancock

4. You might not be the best looking girl here, but beauty is only a light switch away.

-Wm. Shell (KD)

3. If I could rearrange the alphabet I'd put U and I together!

-Graham Worsham

2. You're hotter than a Bunsen burner set to full power!

-Dr Neergaard

1. Hi! You'll do!

-Worm

Meet the Parents Scores Big Laughs

by Will Choppin

In one statement, *Meet the Parents* is probably the most enjoyable comedy that has been out in theaters this year. Not since last year's *Dogma* or *Toy Story 2* has there been a comedy with such energy and appeal. Director Jay Roach fills his film with the right kind of witty humor, which is neither too sophisticated nor too ludicrous, and brings us a genuinely excellent film.

Now, a good comedy has a nicely substantial plot, and here it is. Ben Stiller plays Greg, a man who even at the beginning of the movie has plenty of bad luck on his hands: he's a female nurse, and he has a "very unique last name" (I'm positive I can't print it). He is off to meet the parents of his girlfriend Pam, played by Teri Polo. Robert De Niro plays Pam's father, Jack Byness, who fills himself with joy learning Greg's two introductory dilemmas, mentioned above, and then subsequently making fun of Greg for them profusely. But that's not all. There

is even as Greg and Pam first arrive at her parents' place, we see De Niro furtively glance at Greg through the window with a look of definite De Niro

Niro. I mean what could be more stressful than having Robert De Niro as your future father-in-law?

Meet the Parents was directed by Jay Roach, the man who brought us both *Austin Powers* movies and the lesser known *Mystery, Alaska*. He shows great talent as one of the newer directors, among M. Night Shyamalan and Spike Jonz (*The Sixth Sense* and *Being John Malkovich*, respectively). But don't expect the same aura of comedy enjoyed in *Austin Powers*. Jay Roach gives us somewhat of an original comedy, with many fresh laughs and no old clichés, even though it is based on a movie of the same name that came out in 1992. But nobody saw that one and nobody would. Instead, everyone ought to see this new *Meet the Parents*. If you still aren't satisfied, then I'll let you know one more thing: De Niro's character has a cat that can use the toilet!



Ben Stiller and Robert DeNiro play a nervous wreck and a suspicious, overbearing father respectively to perfection.

Letter to the Editor: In Defense of Activity Period

To the Editor of the Bell Ringer:

Having read Deke Shearon's article in the October 27th issue, I want to respond to his challenge for any faculty member to write a rebuttal of his argument against Activity Period.

Activity Period has had a relatively brief history at MBA. The intent of Activity Period is to provide a common time in the school day when a variety of activities can occur. Because MBA has an extremely large number of singleton courses (courses with only one section), our eight academic periods are quite full, a fact which does not make it possible to tailor students' schedules as seamlessly as is the case in some schools. Thus, for instance, it is not possible to make sure that the editors of the newspaper all have a free period when they could meet with their advisor. An activity period allows the possibility that the organizations can at least meet once or twice a week for 20-25 minutes to conduct necessary business. At the same time, there are a number of teachers who wanted (and still want) to sponsor activities that are not strictly course related, as is the case with the International Club. Still other faculty members were eager to have a time in the day when they could meet

with students whom they could not see otherwise during the day or for whom they could provide specialized tutoring.

Another important issue connected with the Activity Period, and one that led to its creation in the first place, goes to equity issues with the gymnasium. The Junior School athletic program actually begins most of the year when the High

School Activity Period starts. By staggering the beginning times of Junior School athletics and the majority of High School athletics, the younger students get a chance to get in and get out of the way before the bulk of the High School students hits the gym. While this may seem to be a minor point to some, I can attest from personal experience, especially the ten years I was Principal of the Junior School, that it is a major factor that needs to be considered in how the school day is structured.

One of the most compelling arguments, however, for the activity period has been the dedicated time that can be given over to events such as visits from college representatives. Without a common period, the school would be hard pressed to suggest to the college representatives any time other than the lunch periods as a time when they would have guaranteed access to students. There are a relatively small number of college representatives who can't schedule around one of our activity periods, and as a result, sometimes students have to miss all or part of a class to meet with a representative who can't come at any other time. On

"I hope that students who want to write about topics such as this...will exercise journalistic responsibility by researching the topic rather than writing so seemingly off-the-cuff and emotionally...."

the whole, however, MBA students have much freer access to a very large number of representatives (including the "mini-fairs" that take place several times each fall, when a number of schools' representatives are on campus expressly to talk with our students and to give them brochures, packets, and other information). Again, this may seem to be an issue that affects

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only some of the students (primarily juniors and seniors), but it is a matter that has to be considered very carefully in the make up of the school day.

When Activity Period was first created at MBA, there were a larger number of offerings that there are today, admittedly, and this fact presupposes that students who are not otherwise engaged in one of the offered activities can have a few extra minutes to work on homework (hence the study halls). Students who don't want to be in a study hall should find something else they want to do,

such a common period: students missing classes or substantial parts of the lunch period more frequently in order to meet with college representatives or for other meetings, fewer opportunities for students and faculty to interact outside the classroom, virtually no opportunities for a student to receive help from a teacher at the end of the day unless their schedules match up and both are free at a common time, and no chance to sample different activities such as the International Club or the newly formed "Movie Madness" group.

Finally, I hope that the student body recognizes that every system can always be improved. The current daily schedule is the product of seven months of hard work by administration and faculty, all of whom are charged with trying to provide a framework within which the school's mission can be achieved. I am sure that anyone who has a proposal to meet the objectives aimed at through the current daily schedule will be listened to carefully and thoughtfully.

G. Edward Gaffney
Academic Dean

Opinions

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Let's Hear What You Had To Say...

Thank you to the 404 students (88% of the student body) who participated in this survey two weeks ago. We are happy to voice your opinions.

On a Scale of 1(worst) to 10(best), how would you rate this year's... Assemblies?

Seniors	4.8
Juniors	3.9
Sophomores	4.4
Freshmen	4.7

Pep Rallies?

Seniors	4.8
Juniors	4.2
Sophomores	4.1
Freshmen	3.4

Lunch Service(if asked in September)?

Seniors	8.0
Juniors	6.8
Sophomores	4.4
Freshmen	6.9

Lunch Service now?

Seniors	3.7
Juniors	4.9
Sophomores	5.4
Freshmen	4.9

On average, how many hours of sleep do you get per school night?

Seniors	6.6
Juniors	6.2
Sophomores	6.5
Freshmen	6.8

Why Is Hunting a Sport?

by Ryan Mirian

Lounging on a couch in the midst of my Thanksgiving stupor, I came across what I thought was a quite interesting discovery. Maybe it was the tryptophan or the unaccustomed amount of sleep, but everything seemed really clear to me. I realized that anyone who considered either NASCAR or hunting a real sport was as useless to me as another turkey sandwich.



the chance of seeing a horrible accident worth wasting five to six hours of your life? Is this really a bonding experience you would like to share with your parents or a close friend? Imagine the

great conversations you could have every 3.4 seconds the cars aren't racing by, bursting your eardrums!

Now, I know my next statement is going to offend every avid hunter at MBA, but it must be said. HUNTING AS A SPORT IS THE

DUMBEST IDEA EVER CONCEIVED!!! Having never hunted in my whole life, however, maybe I'm missing the big picture. No, wait a second, I think I hit the nail right on the head. Who came

Continued on p. 13

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The End of Service As We Know It?

by Daniel Branscome

Here at Montgomery Bell Academy, the next dedication we attend may not be that of a new building or statue, but instead, a tombstone. Instead of celebrating, we may be in mourning. The school will have lost something that has long shined as a beacon of our community, its traditions, and most importantly, the student body. Service at MBA could soon be coming to an unfortunate end.

If the comments in last week's advisory meetings are to be interpreted as a sign of future school policy, then the administration may soon initiate changes in its requirements for graduation. Along with normal studies and sports activities, students will be required to clock a set number of service hours to graduate. In doing so, the school will transform service from something of real value into meager credits.

Credits that many students will treat as a simple chore to complete quickly and then forget. As former local journalist Michael Turko was fond of saying, "IT AIN'T RIGHT!"

Service, to my way of thinking,

"By forcing students to serve, the school inevitably denies them the ability to volunteer. And without volunteerism, there is no real service."

conjures up the concept of volunteerism. By forcing students to serve, the school inevitably denies them the ability to volunteer. And without volunteerism, there is no real service. This change harms both the students and the community at large. Students who do not feel committed to service will not bring with them the personal motivation that is crucial for a project's success. The whole business becomes just another in a long list of school events and activities, that students are required to attend.

Nonetheless, many at this point may still be intrigued by the idea of mandatory service. They may be thinking that the idea has some real

A Response to Mirian's Liberal Evaluation of Political Signs

by Michael Ross

OK, before I start this, I have to make a disclaimer about my previous article on cars. When I got to the ugly Lexus SUV, I got the name wrong. What I was really referring to was the RX-300; the LX-400 is not disproportionate and does not have an bad grill. There, now I've gotten that off my chest.

There was one article in the election issue which simply cannot go unanswered; it is Johnathon Mirian's article on campaign signs. This article made me about as comfortable as egg in a frying pan. The Bush signs are very pleasing to the eye. If you mention how big they are, I'd like to tell you I saw a Gore sign that requires at least two people to carry it. The "big Stalinistic letters" just prevent the sign from being totally dominated by one color, unlike the Gore signs where the small lettering and the

merit. And yes, on the surface it does appear to embrace some significant

barely visible swoosh are drowned out at a distance by a dull blue field (a badge the shame). Bush signs also feature the American flag, showing that he stands for the Constitution and the ideals on which this great nation was founded—ideals which should never die!!!!!! Gore's signs, on the other hand, symbolically ditch the flag for a red swoosh. While this swoosh does reflect the revolutionary view of

"If you add just three small lines to the swoosh [of Gore's signs], you will notice that it turns into the Hammer and Sickle of the USSR."

liberalism, the "forward-thinking" attitude is one which idolizes a socialist system. If you add just three small lines to the swoosh, you will notice that it turns into the Hammer and Sickle of the USSR. And if you don't know why that's a bad thing, you can go down to Miami and find out. Mirian also says

that the small letters of the Gore sign tell you he's a modest man. Well, he's exactly right! I agree with him on this one—but—since when is Al Gore known for his honesty? C'mon, this guy's so full of himself, it's not even funny. Remember when he thought he invented the internet? While Gore is a liar, Nader is more forthcoming about how un-American he is. You will notice that, while other stickers would have

our great nation's colors, Nader's is a green field. It looks like the Libyan flag. If you squint a little you can see an American flag, whose colors are filtered out through Ralph's radically liberal views. And another thing, running over yard signs is a very sophomoric practice which would only reflect the left's views on the 1st Amendment. Oh, Johnathon, you know what you said about how having a military turns us into fascists bent on world domination? I dare you to say that to any retired serviceman!!!!!!

not a skill that can be taught by any institution. It is something a person achieves by himself and in his or her own time. In the end, it is this individual process of participating in service that gives the whole system its value.

Service projects, in any form, are a chance for students to prove that they don't always need to be told what to do and how to act. In fact, students organize the majority of service projects. These projects are a real-life proving ground for those gentlemanly ethics we as a community praise so often.

Of course, the idea of mandatory service was definitely the brainchild of a few well-meaning individuals. However, its adoption into school policy should be a choice made by the entire student body. Students should be given the chance to discuss its pros and cons and judge for themselves. For, if a majority of students are not involved in such an important discussion that would be the most devastating mistake.

Although, as comedian Dennis Miller likes to end his rants, "that's just my opinion. I could be wrong."

values. Requiring service would expose MBA students to experiences outside the school community. It would provide a vehicle for the schools image outside the traditional battlegrounds of athletics and academics.

However, these supposed benefits are completely annihilated in

fiber. Instead, it trivializes the action of service, while degrading the hard work of those who previously acted out of personal initiative. The poet and philosopher Khalil Gibran once stated, "he who requires urging to do a noble act will never accomplish it."

Our school and its administrators should not delude themselves into thinking that they can create a wholly virtuous and caring student. The school already has high moral standards. Requiring students to participate in service projects, however noble it may seem, destroys the purpose of these projects and it destroys the trust the school shares with the student body. The school, in forcing service, is in effect

"...the school will transform service from something of real value into meager credits."

the face of the harms that would be created. Forced service does not expand anyone's character or moral

saying that the student is not capable of growing morally without complete guidance. Yet, truly caring for others is

Opinions

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Point-Counter-Point: MBA's Jurisdiction

In this point-counter-point, the Bell Ringer allowed two MBA students to propose arguments which represented well the two sides of this issue. While it has generally been our policy not to permit anonymous opinions to be published, the Bell Ringer has found it better in the past to let the authors of potentially controversial point-counter-points remain nameless in order to present the opposing view points as representative of two sides of a topic, rather than as the exceptional opinions of two individuals. It is the Bell Ringer's hope with all point-counter-points of this kind, that they will spur discussion from which the end result is a better understanding of the issue at hand.

Leave it to the Parents

I strongly disagree with one of MBA's policy on drinking and other unlawful activities. Students have been reprimanded on quite a few occasions in recent years for such offenses, with punishments ranging from probation to suspension to dismissal. I believe that in many of these cases the school unjustly intervened in the matter of a student's private life.

If a boy at MBA is found to be guilty of participating in an unlawful activity on the school's campus or at any function with which the school is associated, the school has an unquestionable right to punish him.

But any other offenses, besides major property damage or personal injury, should be off limits for school intervention, because anything else is one's private business. Something detached from anything even remotely related to the school is simply outside of their jurisdiction.

If you still don't agree with

"...when a student engages in one[illegal activity] on the weekend, completely separate from school life, he should be dealt with by his parents, for that is their job."

me, try this on for size: Imagine you are a parent. Your son goes to a friend's house and does something stupid like abuse an illegal substance. The parents of the person whose house it is catches them and is very angry. Word gets out to other parents, one of which takes it upon themselves to call the school. The school then suspends or possibly even expels your son. Wouldn't you feel like

it was your own business what your son had done and your own responsibility to punish him accordingly, not the school's? I know I would.

Now I am not defending the actions of any student caught participating in

any unlawful activities, and I do not disagree with the illegality of any of these activities. But I do know that when a student engages in one on the weekend, completely separate from school life, he should be dealt with by his parents, for that is their job. Not the school's.

School's Reputation at Stake

I believe that MBA has been perfectly just in dealing with students caught participating in illegal activities inside or outside of school. While in a small number of cases I believe that the perpetrator may have been punished unfairly, since I have attended this school, I have not disagreed with the school's decision to handle cases of student wrongdoing off of school premises.

When one is enrolled at MBA is he bound to certain responsibilities. He must know that as long as he is here, his actions, whether they be commendable or deplorable, reflect the school. If people outside the MBA community hear of students using illegal substances or destroying personal property, they will think less of the school, especially if the students are not punished for their actions. If alumni, or others within the MBA community find out about similar behavior, not only will that alter their opinion of their beloved school, but

it will also embarrass them as supporters of MBA.

The ideal of Montgomery Bell Academy is for each student to be a gentleman, a scholar, and an athlete, in that order. This means that the school's only mission is not just to educate its students. According to the ideal, its first responsibility, before scholarship, is to train its boys to behave properly—to behave as

gentlemen. This implies that it is the school's duty to punish a student for behavior unbecoming of a gentleman, no matter where or when this behavior takes place.

Even though I know that this

approach to the situation may seem unfair to some who feel that a school cannot intervene in every single aspect of a student's life, one must put the reputation of the school and those who love and who are associated with it before their own wasteful activities.

Anti-Hunting

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up with the idea of killing animals when you don't need the meat for food or the fur for clothing? I bet they thought, "Hey, I like nature. Maybe if I slowly kill it, it'll be even better. Yeah, that makes sense."

Well, after watching a hunting show, followed by an entire NASCAR race, I have determined that the apocalypse is upon us. First, I saw a man hide himself behind a tree and wait for twenty minutes. Clearly visible to any attacking deer, he told all 47 viewers at home how much fun this part of the

hunt is for him: "Boy, I tell you, the anticipation is enough excitement for me." Yeah, me too . . . NOT! Sick of wasting my time on such garbage, I looked for something more fulfilling to watch. Unfortunately, all I found was

"Anyone who considered either NASCAR or hunting a real sport was as useless to me as another turkey sandwich"

NASCAR. Well, I was amazed how little actual racing I saw in about three hours. Other than the occasional accident, most of the time was spent in the pits,

talking with the owners, or watching the commentators. By lap 172 out of 400, I was out of gas. So, how can we justify hunting and auto racing as real sports? Simple, we just have to change them. We have to make them more challenging.

For racing, no regular track would do. Instead, we should construct obstacle courses with numerous fire pits. Furthermore, the drivers should be forced to race one portion of the course blindfolded, without the privilege of a break pedal. Now, there's a challenge.

Well, what about hunting you say. Now, I've thought a long time about this solution. The bigger the animal, the smaller the weapon and the least ammunition you should be allowed to use. If someone wanted to hunt a pesky squirrel or a rabbit, nothing but an automatic weapon would do. But, if you wanted to hunt deer, you should be forced to use bow and just one arrow. Any animal as large as or larger than a bear would require using nothing but your hands. Make the odds even. Give the bear some fun too. After all, it would only be sporting.

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Most in School History

Semifinalists Break Record

Andy May

Twenty-three MBA seniors reached the semifinalist level in the 1976 National Merit Semifinalist competition. This number, a high point in MBA academic history, is one of the largest totals in the nation. The competition, which selects the top one-half of one percent of the nation's high school seniors as semifinalists, awards about 3,800 scholarships to the outstanding students in the United States. Selection for the semifinal position is based on performance on the PSAT taken in the junior year. Further advancement requires academic achievement as well as commensurate scores on the SAT.

MBA Leads Region

MBA with 23 semifinalists ranks as the top high school in Tennessee in terms of the number of students honored. In fact, of all students selected in the state, Montgomery Bell can claim some 10%. Regionally, the school is also a leader. MBA equals or betters all other institutions, both public and private, regardless of size, in the southern United States. On the national level, the school ranks twelfth among all schools

and fourth among all private schools, behind Exeter, Andover, and Horace Mann. Notably, MBA has more Merit semifinalists than any other boy's school in the nation.

MBA's large number of semifinalists is doubly significant given the increase in the cutoff score. Rather than declining, as it has for the past several years, the required mark rose to a level higher than that in 1975 and 1974. Besides, the 23 semifinalists, the senior class includes 17 merit commendees, students whose scores fall just below the semifinal level. Adding the two groups reveals that over one half of the senior class has been recognized by the National Merit Program.

These statistics are not intended to reflect upon the quality of Montgomery Bell Academy or any other institution. They demonstrate only that the top students at MBA have comparatively high academic ability.

Following initial selection as semifinalists, contestants move to the final level. There a broad range of factors are considered, including academic ability,



Merit Semifinalist (l-r): (Row 1) Kevin Mallory, Andy May, Jerry Jordan, Charles Sawyers, Jim Dale, Joe Wood, David Schull; (Row 2) Mickey Tune, John Hannon, Steve Parman, Billy Anderson, John Andrews, Joe Wieck, Donald Phillips; (Row 3) Michael Knish, Ben Cohen, Norm Herron, Marshall Summar, Bill Collins, Lyle Beasley, Sam Garrett

school recommendations, scholastic performance, and SAT scores. About 90% of the semifinalists generally reach the Finalist rank. These then participate in the final process of selection, that of determining scholarship winners. Likewise, the se winners are selected on the basis of a wide range of factors. About one-fourth of the semifinalists eventually receive some sort of financial support.

The semifinalist level is highly selective. Over one million students each year participate in the competition,

representing about 17,000 secondary schools. Of these, only 15,000, less than one-half of one percent, qualify to reach the semifinals. The purpose of naming students to this level is to honor them for exceptional academic progress and to increase semifinalists' opportunities for college admission and financial aid by bringing them to the attention of higher educational institutions and organizations that offer undergraduate scholarships.

The program disseminates the names of all

semifinalists to such institutions throughout the nation. Precisely why MBA does so well in the Merit Competition is impossible to determine; perhaps the Word Wealth and Latin are important or perhaps MBA just gets intelligent students in the first place.

It is clear, however, that something is working, because the 1976 performance of the National Merit Semifinalists competition indicates that MBA's senior class has achieved as much as any other in the nation.

Coordination—Uncertain Outlook

by Jackson Galloway

After last year's announcement suggesting the possibility of introducing girls on the Hill, many ideas both pro and con were discussed.

By now, these ideas have mellowed and developed into solid opinions. Essentially, attitudes concerning coordination of MBA have divided along predictable lines. A large group which has strongly expressed its reaction to toward the proposals is the alumni. They are three to one against the idea, citing two major reasons. First, they enjoyed MBA when they attended and wish it to remain "like it was." Also, they worry about the change affecting the school's quality. They

claim that single-sex education is education in an unrealistic vacuum. These proponents also contend that the greater enrollment would help the school monetarily by creating a larger financial base.

The new facilities and personnel required to handle the additional students are a particularly crucial consideration. The money and time necessary would be considerable: a local building firm estimates the cost of constructing a gym, cafeteria, and classrooms to accommodate the 125 girls would be \$1.5 million. The new cafeteria will be built because it is already a current project. The sites of the other new facilities would probably be

between the Fine Arts building and the new tennis courts, adjacent to the Ball Building (completing a quadangle on the front lawn), and parallel to the library sloping down the hill to the creek.

Initially, the addition to the campus and faculty would be very expensive, and enrollment would have to be sufficient to defray these early costs. Once the school has operated several years with this new arrangement, two outcomes are possible. First, families may try to send all of their children to MBA, insuring a steady flow of students and much broader tuition supply. On the other hand, the financial burden might cause considerable difficulties.

The Long Range Planning Committee designated by the Board of Trustees to study coeducation is currently evaluating the possibilities. Mr. Henry Hooker, the director of this effort, will consult with educators, faculty, alumni, and parents.

Given the wide diversity of the opinion among the many groups associated with the school and the large number of practical consideration to be weighed, it is difficult to forecast what this committee may recommend. At this point, it can only be hoped that any decision rendered will improve MBA, but one thing is certain: whatever position is chosen will effect the school for decades to come.

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